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# Equity + Energy

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Efficiency  
Vermont

Energy Burden: A primer

Vermonters' Total Energy Burden

Moving from Data to Action

How we can do better.



“Climate change disproportionately impacts low-income communities and communities of color. **A cleaner energy system is an effective lever for reducing inequities, worldwide”**

## What is Energy Burden?



Energy  
Spending



Household  
Income



Total Energy  
Burden

# 2019 Energy Burden Report – key findings

Share of energy spending, by sector (statewide average)



## Key Findings – Statewide

% of income spent on energy

**10%**

Annual total energy expenditure

**\$5,800**

## Key Findings – by Town

% of income spent on energy

**6-20%**

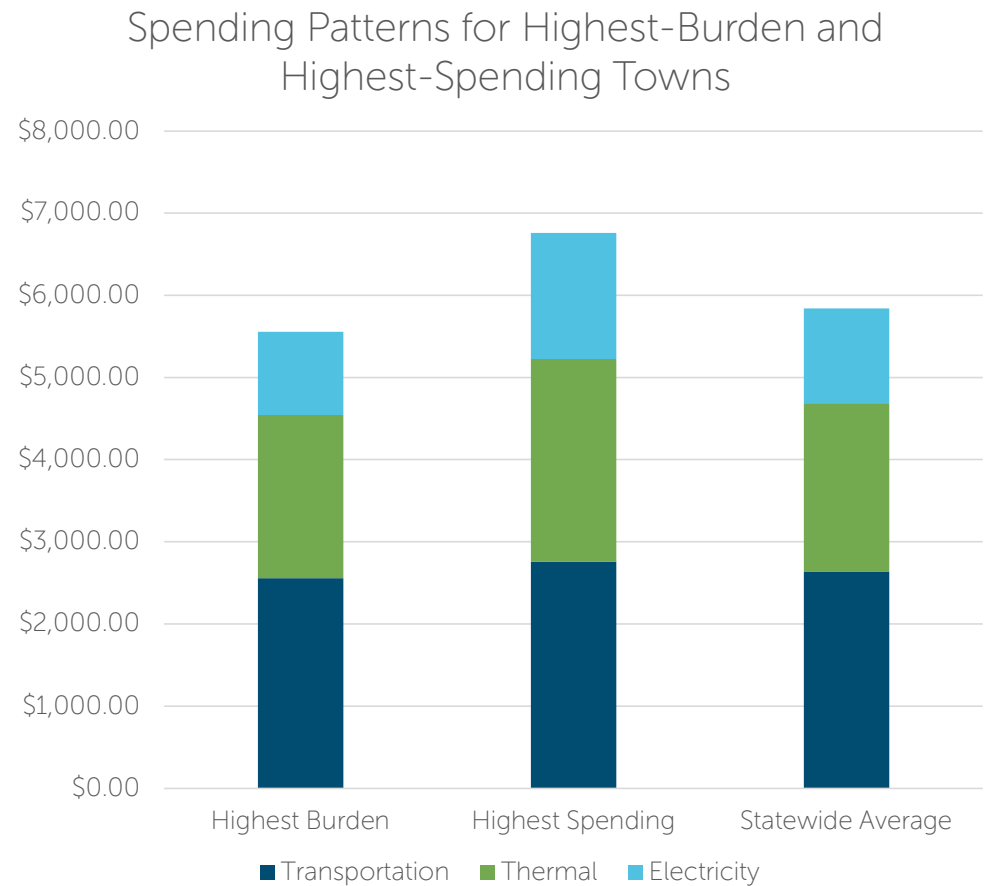
Annual total energy expenditure

**\$3,800-\$7,000**

## Make more, use more

Communities with the highest energy burden are not necessarily consuming more.

Energy spending in these towns is below statewide averages.

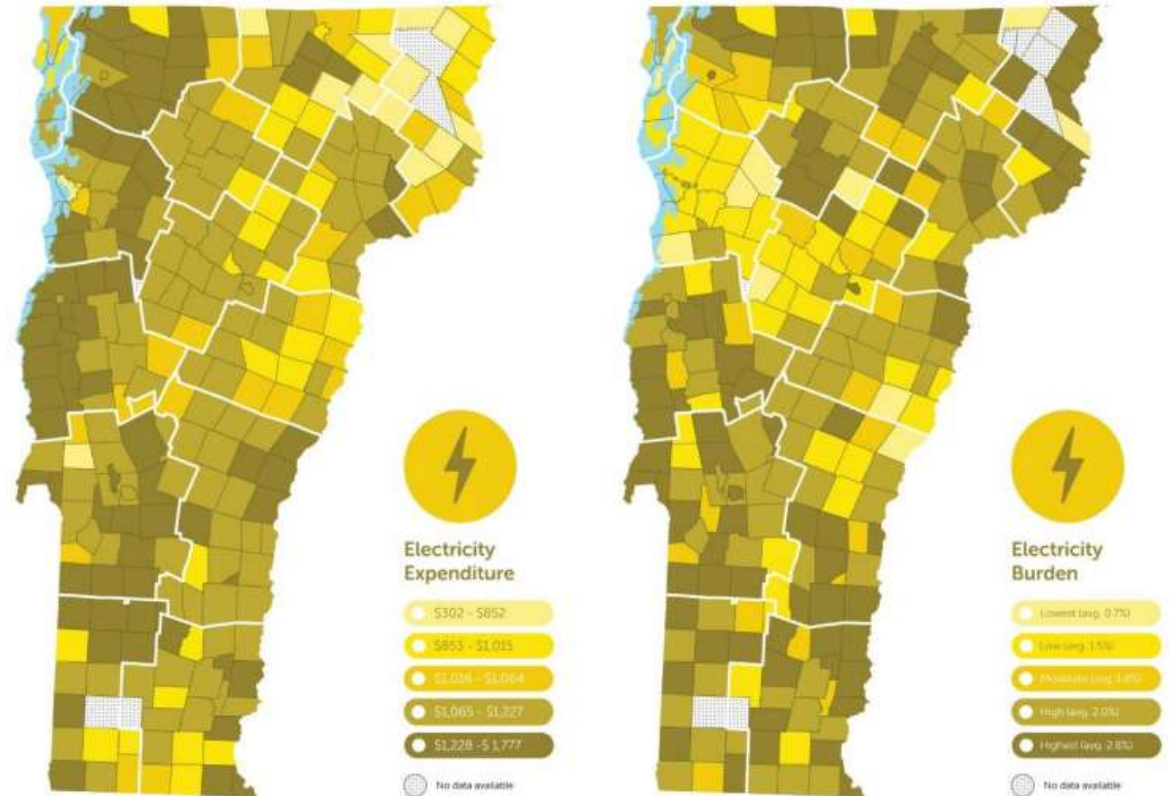


# Electricity

Burdens are highest in the NEK, South

High energy spending in Franklin & Addison

Highest burdens outside of Chittenden County, esp. NEK

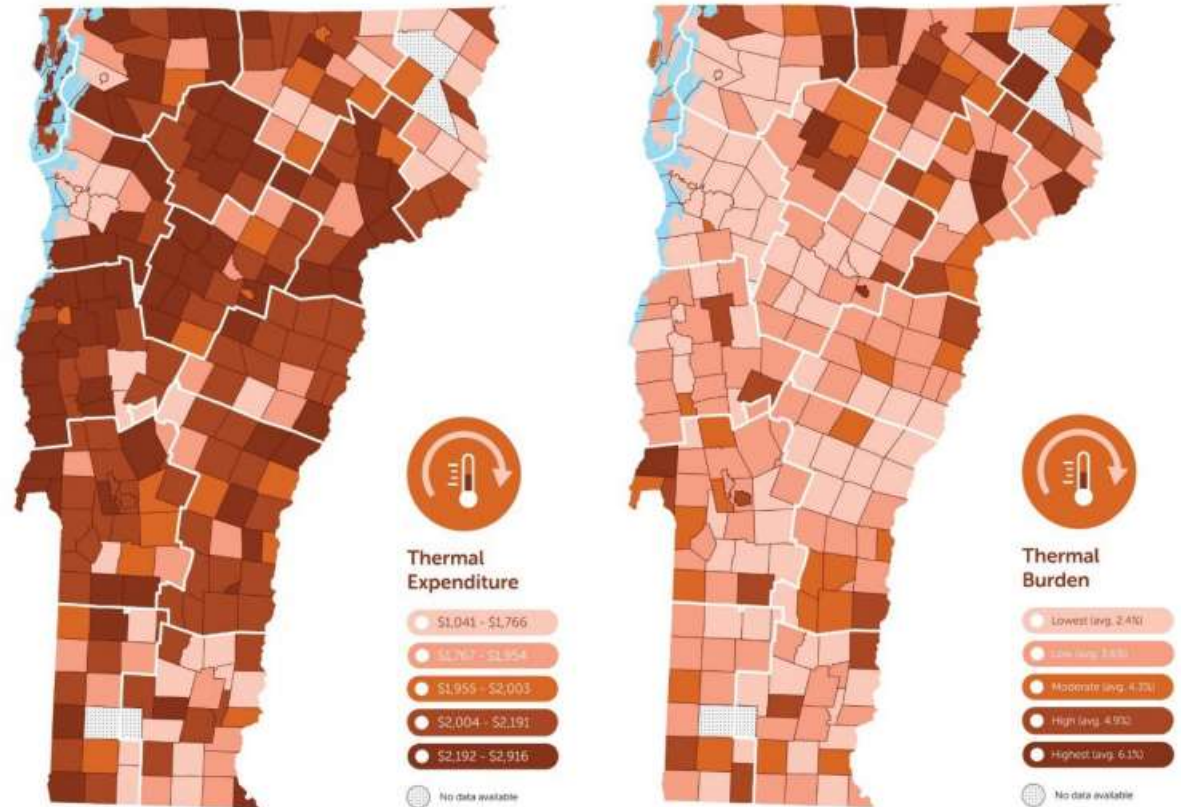


# Thermal

Lower spending, higher burden in NEK

Severely burdened communities have relatively low spending on thermal energy

Tend to be concentrated in the Northeast Kingdom.

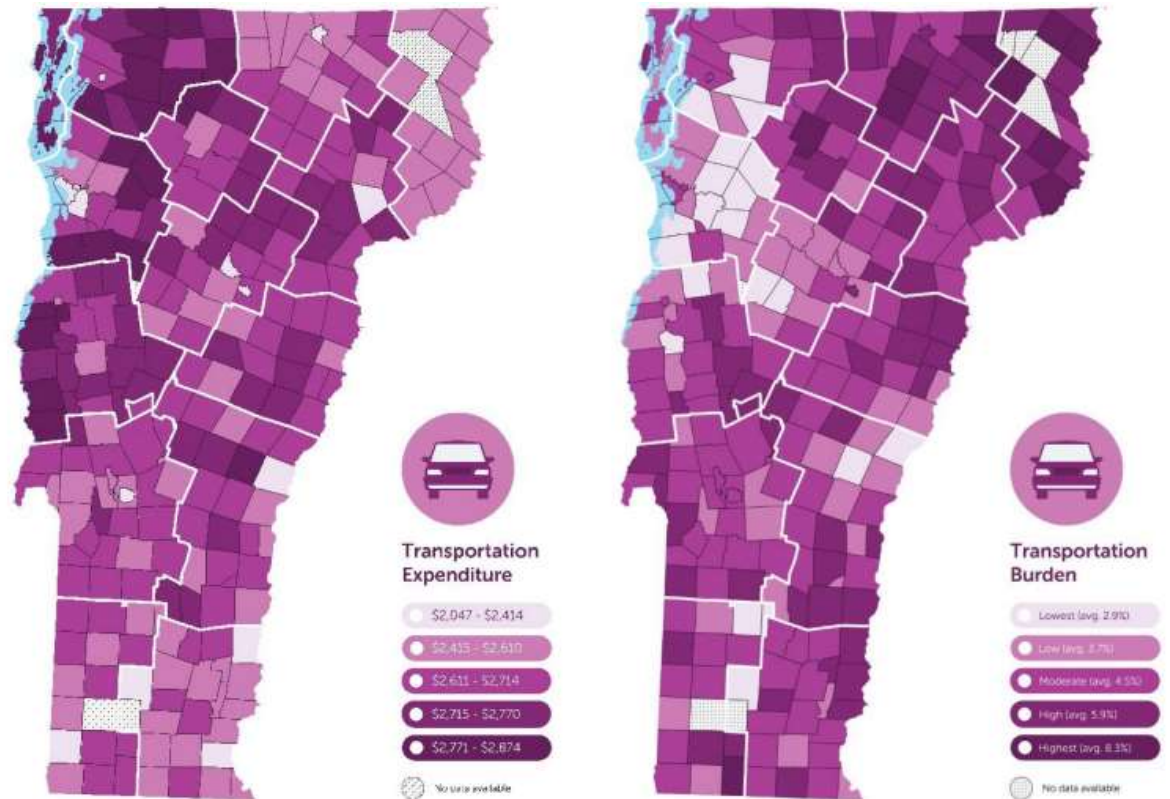




# Transportation

## High burdens outside of Chittenden County

Lower access to public transit and longer commutes increases transportation burden

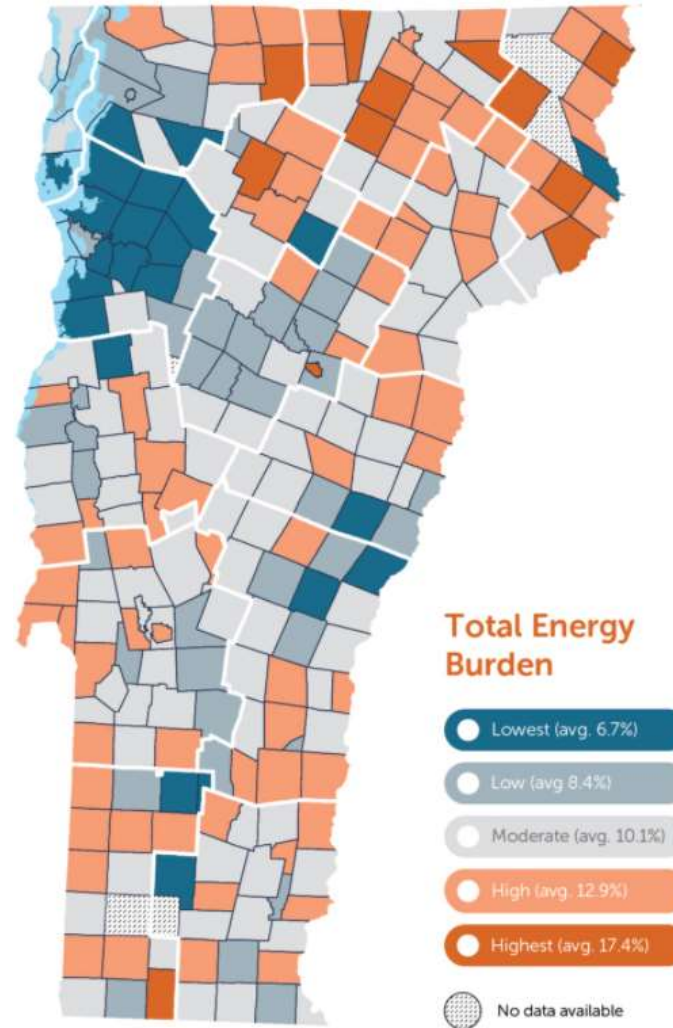


# Total Energy Burden

Highest burdens in NEK,  
lowest in Chittenden County

Transportation burden is a  
significant driver of total burden

Lower burden correlates with  
higher income towns



# Adoption of Clean Energy

Cold Climate Heat Pumps	Solar PV	Electric Vehicles	Weatherized Homes
Searsburg	Cornwall	Plainfield	Winhall
Ripton	Waltham	Charlotte	Victory
St. George	West Windsor	Montpelier	Montpelier
Mendon	Lincoln	Norwich	Shrewsbury
Stratton	Strafford	Strafford	Landgrove
Killington	Charlotte	Waitsfield	Jamaica
Peru	New Haven	Putney	Mount Holly
Andover	Weybridge	Calais	Barton
West Windsor	Norwich	Searsburg	Rutland City
Waterbury	Thetford	Cornwall	St. Albans City

### Energy burden bin

- Lowest burden
- Low burden
- Moderate burden
- High burden
- Highest burden

# Where we've been...

Data can drive lasting change – quickly!

**2019** *March*

30% of customers completing weatherization projects were moderate income

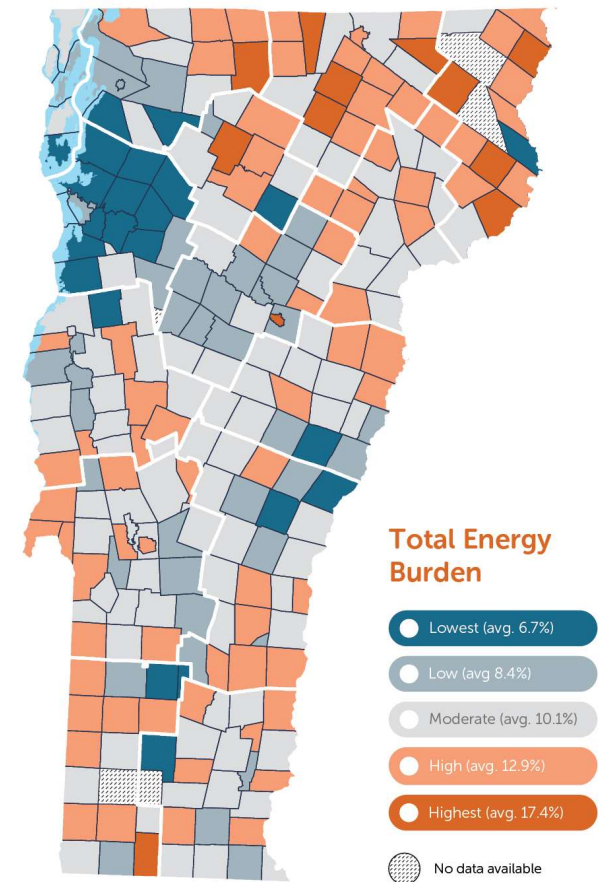
**2020** *September*

55% of customers completing weatherization projects were moderate income

## 2019 Energy Burden Report



Efficiency  
Vermont



# What's next: Are Efficiency Vermont's energy programs truly serving all Vermonters?

## Translating data into action

- 1** Map Census demographic data against known participation rates for communities across the state.
- 2** Define gaps & barriers – work with partners to understand & address them  
Redesign programs & engagement strategies to help remove them
- 3** Commit to lasting investments & continuous improvement

# Questions?

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